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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/801,696	03/17/2004	Hong Yang	115256	1863
25944	7590	09/12/2005	EXAMINER	
OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC			WYSZOMIERSKI, GEORGE P	
P.O. BOX 19928			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320			1742	

DATE MAILED: 09/12/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/801,696

Applicant(s)

YANG ET AL.

Examiner

George P. Wyszomierski

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 June 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-46 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-13 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 23-42 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 14-22 and 43-46 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3/29/05, 6/15/05.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____.

1. Claims 14-22 and 43-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The last two lines of independent claims 14 and 43 recite forming nanoparticles "different from" other nanoparticles. It is unclear what differences would or would not be encompassed by these claims, i.e. is applicant referring to differences in size, structure, composition, properties, etc. of the particles? Further, it is unclear to what degree any such differences would be required to manifest themselves in the context of the claimed process; for example, the heating or annealing steps employed in making "different" nanoparticles would inherently create some difference between the original and final particles. Absent any indication in the specification or claims of what difference(s) would arise as a result of this step of the claimed process, it is unclear whether or not a given process would fall within the scope of the instant claims.

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 14-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Teng et al. Nano Letters article.

Teng discloses a process of making core-shell nanoparticles employing the process steps as recited in claim 14 together with the specific chemicals as recited in instant claims 15-

20. Teng does not specify the ratio of salt to organometallic compound as defined in claims 21 and 22, and does not specify the forming of "different" nanoparticles as recited in the last two lines of claim 14. These differences are not seen as resulting in a patentable distinction between the prior art and the claimed invention because:

a) With respect to claims 21 and 22, the ratios as presently claimed include a very broad spectrum ranging from several times more metal salt or metallic compound than organometallic compound to several times more organometallic compound than metal salt or metal compound. Therefore, it is highly likely that any practical application of the process of Teng would employ a ratio somewhere within the presently claimed ranges.

b) The step of heating to 290 degrees C employed by Teng would form core-shell nanoparticles. In the present claims, one heats a solution to form core-shell nanoparticles and then heats those nanoparticles to form "different" nanoparticles. It is unclear where the boundary would be between the first such heating step and the second such heating step as claimed. The examiner's position is that the Teng process, in the course of heating to 290 degrees C, would form core-shell nanoparticles, and some of these nanoparticles would continue to be heated, which would in some manner result in "different" nanoparticles than the originally formed nanoparticles.

Thus, a prima facie case of obviousness is established between the disclosure of Teng et al. and the presently claimed invention.

4. In a response filed June 15, 2005, Applicant alleges that the Teng process does not result in forming "different" nanoparticles as required by the instant claims. Applicant's arguments in this regard are not seen as patentably distinguishing the claimed process from that of Teng, for reasons set forth in the rejections supra.

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5. Applicant further alleges that the previously cited Hattori reference teaches away from the presently claimed invention, in that Hattori wants to avoid formation of core-shell nanoparticles. The examiner agrees with applicant on this point, and the rejections of claims that require transferring core-shell nanoparticles to a substrate and thermally annealing based on Hattori are withdrawn. Thus, claims 23-42 are allowable over the prior art of record, and claims 43-46 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action.

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).


A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

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7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to George Wyszomierski whose telephone number is (571) 272-1252. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Eastern time.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Roy King, can be reached on (571) 272-1244. Effective July 15, 2005, all patent application related correspondence transmitted by facsimile must be directed to the new central facsimile number, (571)-273-8300. This new Central FAX Number is the result of relocating the Central FAX server to the Office's Alexandria, Virginia campus.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


GEORGE WYSZOMIERSKI
PRIMARY EXAMINER
GROUP 1742

GPW

September 8, 2005